

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY AND SUPERVISOR MOLINA June 8, 2004

On any given night in Los Angeles County, about 80,000 people are homeless. There currently is an effort to create a plan to end homelessness in 10 years called “Bring Los Angeles Home, the Partnership to End Homelessness” (Bring LA Home). Bring LA Home includes leaders and representatives from the City, County, business, non-profit, and faith-based communities.

As part of the Bring LA Home planning process, focus groups were conducted on a variety of homeless issues, including mental health, substance abuse, and health. Each focus group created a list of recommendations for ending homelessness. Several of the focus group recommendations addressed the County’s General Relief (GR) program, as there are approximately 15,000 GR recipients who are homeless. One such recommendation is to leverage existing GR funds to expand the emergency shelter program for homeless GR participants and all homeless individuals.

Currently, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) spends nearly \$4 million annually in Net County Cost funds for emergency shelter to homeless adults applying for GR. DPSS purchases emergency shelter beds, but competes with other agencies, like Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), for limited resources. LAHSA’s year-round shelters also provide case management services, which can help end the cycle of homelessness. According to LAHSA’s 2002 Continuum of Care gap analysis, there is a shortfall of 10,000 emergency shelter beds in the County.

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In order to maximize the homeless services delivery system for GR participants and all homeless individuals, the County should examine the existing homeless funding mechanisms and service delivery plans to determine how they can be more comprehensive and effective and to explore methods of blending funds and resources for this purpose.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer to facilitate a workgroup to determine how existing County funds could be blended and leveraged to provide a more effective, comprehensive homeless delivery system, and report back in 90 days. The workgroup shall include: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; Departments of Health, Mental Health, Public Social Services, and Community and Senior Services; Community Development Commission; and community advocates, such as Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness, Public Counsel and Shelter Partnership. The report shall address: (1) the feasibility of transferring funds utilized for General Relief homeless shelter to LAHSA to support a year-round shelter program with case management services; (2) a plan for phasing-in the transfer of such funds and how LAHSA would locate sites and providers for emergency shelters; and (3) how to ensure that the County meets its obligation to GR participants for shelter services.

WA I:\GR funds for shelters